



Rebuild Iowa Task Force Agriculture and Environment Task Force Meeting Notes

**Wednesday, August 13, 2008 — 1:30 p.m.
Johnston Public Library
6700 Merle Hay Road
Johnston, Iowa 50131**

Task Force Members Present:

Brent Halling, Chair, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Perry
Mark Ackelson, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Des Moines
Senator Jerry Behn, Iowa General Assembly, Boone
Dean Black, Iowa Cattleman Association, Somers
Kamyar Enshayan, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls
Cecil Harry, for Mark Rosenbury, Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Des Moines
Warren Kemper, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Wapello
Carlton Kjos, Iowa Farm Bureau, Decorah
Ted Kourousis, Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission, Spencer
Representative Mark Kuhn, Iowa General Assembly, Charles City
Regina Lloyd, Iowa Farmers Union, Linden
Gerald Miller, for Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University, Ames
Terrence Neuzil, Johnson County Supervisor, Iowa City
Bill Northey, Iowa Department of Agriculture, Spirit Lake
Denise O'Brien, Iowa Environmental Council, Atlantic
David Patterson, Iowa Association of County Engineers, Washington
Deb Ryun, Conservation Districts of Iowa, Chariton
Drue Sander, Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, Ames
Representative Tom Sands, Iowa General Assembly, Columbus Junction
Ed Ulch, Iowa Soybean Association, Solon
Heidi Vittetoe, JMV Pork, Washington
Senator Frank Wood, Iowa General Assembly, Eldridge

Resource Group Members Present:

Donna Buell, Buell Law Office, Spirit Lake
Paul Govoni, Hydro-Klean, Des Moines
Timothy Helmbrecht, United States Department of Agriculture, Des Moines
Tolif Hunt, Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids
JoAnn Johnson, Panora
Christopher Jones, Des Moines Water Works, Des Moines
David McMurray, Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Missouri Rivers Association, Burlington
Gene Parkin, University of Iowa, Iowa City
Chris Petersen, Iowa Farmers Union, Clear Lake
John Torbert, Iowa Drainage District Association, West Des Moines

Presenters

Lyle Asell, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Rebuild Iowa Office
Alex Moon, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines
Mary Skopec, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa City
Jerry Skalak, Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island, Illinois
Jeff Vansteenburgh, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Mason City

Observers and Guests

Nate Bonnett, Iowa State Association of Counties, Des Moines
Rod Boshart, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Cedar Rapids
Tom Block, Iowa Farm Bureau, West Des Moines
Jamie Cashman, State Capitol, Des Moines
Al Farris, Indianola
Susan Fenton, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Des Moines
Marian Gelb, Iowa Environmental Council, Des Moines
Chuck Gipp, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Des Moines
George Hebl
Andrew Hug, Environment Iowa, Des Moines
Chad Ingels, Farmer, Randalia
Deb Kozel, Legislative Services Agency, Des Moines
Jace Mikels, Senate Democratic Staff, Des Moines
Juanita Miller, FEMA
Dan Rasmussen, Land Improvement Contractors Association, Independence
Jim Reilly, FEMA
Georgia Van Gundy, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, West Des Moines

Staff

Lyle Asell, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Rebuild Iowa Office
Harold Hommes, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Rebuild Iowa Office
Amelia Colwell, State Public Policy Group and Rebuild Iowa Office
Paritosh Kasotia, State Public Policy Group and Rebuild Iowa Office
Tom Slater, State Public Policy Group and Rebuild Iowa Office

Welcome and Review of Previous Meeting – Task Force Chair, Brent Halling

Halling welcomed the group and said that Agriculture and Environment is the only Task Force to have a second meeting, which indicates the broad scope of the topic area. The goal of today will be to brainstorm recommendations for the first 45 days and longer term. There will be presentations on levees and facilities and structures that relate to the environment. The Director of the Department of Natural Resources presented data on impacts to state parks, wildlife, fisheries, forestry and law enforcement bureaus to the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Council. There has been concern that the environment was not covered thoroughly in the first meeting, and Halling said he hoped the second meeting would further address issues related to the environment. He said the Commission had toured the Wapello, Columbus Junction, and Oakville areas and will tour Parkersburg and Cedar Falls disaster areas next week. Halling said that housing is an immediate concern of the Commission and that the Commission has considered prioritizing needs. Halling introduced Jerry Skalak, from the Army Corps of Engineers as the first speaker.

Presentation of Information

Levee Update and The Comprehensive Plan - Jerry Skalak, Army Corps of Engineers

Jerry Skalak introduced himself as a COE staff member assigned to the state FEMA office. He said that there is a Comprehensive Plan concerning the Mississippi River. The Army Corps of Engineers serve in areas of water resources development, environment, infrastructure, disasters, and war fighting support to the Army. The Rock Island District of Engineers is one of six districts in the Mississippi Valley Division. This district is watershed based and has responsibility for the eastern two thirds of Iowa and parts of other surrounding states. The counties impacted by the disaster expand beyond Iowa into Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Missouri. Many levees have been overtopped and breached. A Task Force member asked if the levees are designed to be overtopped. He answered that many are designed to protect at the 100 and 500 year flood levels. Skalak said that the Comprehensive Plan is looking at that to address systemic issues. A Task Force member asked how many levees were topped, and Skalak answered that at least half saw some flooding effect. The Corps does not normally maintain non-federal levees. During emergency response, the Corps provides supplies, technical assistance, water level information, and assists FEMA with unwatering, debris removal, water and wastewater, and critical public facilities.

Skalak said that there are three reservoir systems in the Rock Island District in Iowa (Coralville, Saylorville, and Red Rock) and they functioned as designed. He said that reservoirs are not the sole solution to flood control. The locks and dams have a number of preparation measures to protect them from damage, and getting them back up and running can be a delayed process. He said that there is a PL84-99 Levee Rehabilitation program that will allow the government to provide assistance to repair levees in the program. Water control plans are updated as a result of flood magnitude. Levee ownership can vary from private ownership to city and county levee district. Corps programs include the Continuing Authorities Section 205 Flood Damage Reduction and Specially Authorized projects. He showed that quite a few levees in the Rock Island District are in the program. Minimum standards of the PL 84-99 program include cost sharing measures that restore the levees to pre-flood conditions. There are some exceptions to the regulation about restoring the levee, and the measure to improve it must be economically justified. He said that within the Rock Island District, 20 levees have been identified in the post-flood report to look at damages. There is no actual repair work underway, other than some emergency repair work.

A Task Force member asked how much water reservoirs would normally hold and whether there is potential to draw them down during spring. The speaker answered that that there is a Reservoir Plan that must be followed; the plan specifies when water is drawn down and how much water is drawn down. This plan is approved by Congress. In some cases, reservoirs are storing more water than they were designed to hold. A Task Force member asked how much of the surge reservoirs can hold. Skalak said that he was not sure he could answer the question. A Task Force member said that concern had been expressed about whether the system could hold flood waters back in the future. The speaker said that he was sure that this will be taken into consideration during the planning process. A Task Force member asked how soon a contract would be in place to repair the levee near Oakville. The speaker said that he was unsure of an exact date but that the Oakville area is a high priority. A Task Force member asked what the criteria for using sandbags from the Army Corps of Engineers are. The speaker said that calls requesting sandbags usually come in through governmental agencies or FEMA, but he is unaware of the guidelines for use. A Task Force member said that supervisors in his area thought that sandbags from the Army Corps of Engineers could not be used for residential districts, and there was confusion about where sandbags could be used. The speaker said that he did not believe that there was a shortage of sandbags, but it may be an issue of who can get what.

A Task Force member said that the Coralville Reservoir was 12 feet over its normal system capacity and asked why water had not been released sooner. The speaker said he did not know the

answer but will bring the issue back to his colleagues at the Army Corps of Engineers. A Task Force member said that counting on three lakes seemed insufficient to hold water capacity and asked if there was a way to design levees with emergency outlets to choose areas to flood and areas to protect. Skalak said that issue has been considered and is physically feasible, but there are problems with that tool in that it is a temporary solution. In large floods, it rarely has a significant impact and the effects are quite localized. He said that a better tool is a combination of tools, including more storage and land use changes upstream. A Task Force member asked if private levees are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. The speaker said that the state would be aware of the answer to that.

A Resource Group member asked if it was the Corps' decision to open the floodgates. The speaker said that it is the Corps' ultimate decision but follows very closely the plan laid out and approved by Congress. A Task Force member asked what the Corps' non-structural responsibilities are; the speaker answered that the Corps participates in flood proofing to buildings, identifying non structural alternatives, and completing cost benefit analyses concerning non structural alternatives. The Task Force member asked what jurisdiction was up to the state. A Resource Group member said that jurisdiction was given to the Department of Natural Resources. The Resource Group member said that the particular resources dealing with floodplain management have been underfunded. A Task Force member asked who to talk to about the shift from the Coralville reservoir's purpose in flood management to recreation, and the speaker said that Jim Steinman and Colonel Sinkler from the Army Corps of Engineers would be appropriate people to contact. A Task Force member said that he hopes that rebuilding will consider the consequences of how they rebuild to help mitigate disasters in the future. The speaker said that there is an Interagency Levee Task Force looking at that issue, but there are immediate concerns to repair levees quickly as well. Asell confirmed that he is part of that Task Force. There is also a work group that is dealing with short term and long term solutions.

A Task Force member asked how up to date the floodplain maps are. The speaker said that updates are up to FEMA. A Task Force member said that residential areas in Cedar Rapids outside of the 500 year floodplain were not eligible for flood insurance and were inundated with flooding. Skalak said that maps vary from location to location, and there is a Map Modernization Program to be implemented through FEMA.

Skalak said that the study he referenced involves options to include acquisition of land to allow for purposeful flooding, flowage easement, or doing nothing. Upstream reservoirs were not considered because of the complexity of modeling and implementing the program. The purpose of reconstruction is to ensure existing systems perform and provide benefits into the future. One of the key outcomes of the study is that there are opportunities to improve infrastructure and transportation to minimize damage. The Mississippi River Commission is meeting today and a final report has been submitted to headquarters. They will transmit the report to Congress and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Additional analysis is needed concerning tributaries and the feasibility phase during critical transportation and reconstruction.

The Comprehensive Plan was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act in 1999, and the goal was to identify a systemic flood reduction plan. There are significant costs associated with implementing these measures. The study included public input. The study considered combinations of plans and analyzed them for cost benefit. The speaker said that the Corps has to look at projects from a national economic development perspective, as opposed to a regional economic development perspective. One conclusion from the report was that existing levees protect against 95% of average annual flood damage, but there can be a more systemic look at the issue. Plan H was identified as the best performing plan. A Resource Group member said that the Mississippi River Commission will be holding a hearing on the Comprehensive Plan tomorrow. A Resource

Group member said that three plans have been endorsed by his organization. A Task Force member asked what NESP stood for, and the speaker said that it stands for Navigation and Environmental Sustainability Program. The program is taking a look at environmental and navigation needs of the upper Mississippi River. A Resource Group member said that it has been authorized but not funded.

Environmental Facilities and Structures Impacts – Alex Moon, Mary Skopec, and Jeff Vansteenburgh, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Halling introduced Jeff Vansteenburgh from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Vansteenburgh said the Department was involved in response and recovery to assist in public safety, water supply, and providing technical assistance to wastewater facilities. He said there has been a lot of public assistance with protecting water and wastewater systems. The speaker said that there is one person in the DNR who does damage assessment related to dams. The Cedar Falls plant was surrounded by flooding but was not inundated. Pressure within the water system helps keep the water safe; pressure below 20 psi is considered a concern. During the flood, some systems lost pressure. New Hartford was evacuated but the system was able to keep the water supply safe through use of pressure. The Des Moines Water Works was not inundated. Waterloo has a well field and had 22 wells endangered but not flooded. In Iowa City, there was serious flood damage to water systems, wastewater systems, and the Coralville wastewater system. The impacts of the damage will be seen in the future, such as the issue of Infiltration and Inflow, which causes overflow problems. DNR priorities include safety, protection of public water supplies, and protection of public wastewater treatment. In Iowa, there are 34 public drinking water supplies that draw water from surface water. The Department was able to visit every drinking water and wastewater treatment plant in flooded areas. By July 24, nine wastewater plants were left to operate at less than capacity, and there was one in Oakville that was not operational.

The Mason City water treatment plant was shut down due to flooding on June 8. Clean up began on June 9. Soft starts were damaged and there was extensive damage to electronic controls. They could not pump contaminated water to waste because of the possibility that storage tanks might collapse. On June 10, oil was found in test results, and they began pumping to tankers. By June 11, results were good and the plant began restoring pressure. Mason City DNR received advice from Des Moines Water Works to ensure that clean up was done in a responsible way to restore water when the safety of the water was certain. By June 13, all samples from 30 test sites were negative for bacteria.

Adequate waste water treatment can be a significant economic development tool for cities. Priorities for DNR include proper debris disposal. The Environmental Protection Agency assisted with retrieving orphan tanks and drums and brings \$5.5 million to Iowa for hazardous materials recovery. Orphan drums are those sitting in warehouses or homes that are carried to a different location during the flood. As of July 28, 91 large (more than 85 gallons) containers, 2,138 30 – 85 gallon drums, 5,166 5 – 30 gallon drums, and 156,071 small (less than 5 gallons) containers have been recovered. Also recovered are appliances, and numbers are still growing. There were 180,000 people without wastewater treatment in Cedar Rapids, and the plant is now functional. Wastewater plants are usually built downstream so that waste can be transported by gravity. The speaker said that there are advantages to being close to rivers, such as retrieving water from sand deposits for water supply wells. Systems have been overwhelmed.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completes air quality monitoring, and there were no exceedances for airborne asbestos. Health and legal implications prevent burning after floods. A Task Force member asked how to test for asbestos. Vansteenburgh said that the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory and private firms will test for asbestos. Clean up concerns involve controlling dust to prevent airborne asbestos. A Task Force member asked if fines would be issued for raw

sewage being dumped into rivers. The speaker said that in the disaster mode, they would not enforce regulations that relate to agricultural or urban entities. A Task Force member asked about how to transport manure, and the speaker encouraged anyone to call their local DNR office to assist with Manure Management Plan compliance. He said that plans can be updated at any time but must be submitted to DNR annually. A Task Force member asked about Iowa's water quality, and he said that the next presenter would touch on that.

Alex Moon from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources spoke on landfills. He said that landfills today are engineered facilities and have location restrictions. Federal and state regulations involve a need for a liner and a system to keep liquids from reaching groundwater. He said that landfills may only have a few years of capacity and build cells onto properties incrementally. The Cedar Rapids, Black Hawk County, and Iowa City landfills are taking on additional tonnage of waste each day. On average, to build an additional cell costs \$600,000. Transfer costs are also a consideration. The city of Cedar Rapids has a landfill that was closed and was reopened to take debris from the flood. This landfill does not have a liner and will be open at least 90 days and probably for one year. In Des Moines County, there was another opening of a previous landfill site that does not have a liner.

Economic impacts include additional costs to open, close, and monitor landfills. Environmental impacts include the implications of pulling the cap off, more waste means more contamination, liners are not in place, and there will be increases in leachate and methane. Immediate concerns are that waste is under control. Wet debris also causes more gas to be released. In the longer term, it would be useful to have a variety of tools to deal with these issues. A Task Force member asked when waste surges would subside. The speaker said homes will not be knocked down for a year, and there will be waste generated from the rebuilding process two and three years down the road. He predicted that for the next few years, it will be an issue for Cedar Rapids.

Dr. Mary Skopec, from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, was introduced. She said that sampling has been undertaken on a weekly basis since June 9, especially in urban areas. Additionally, there was sampling done for bacteria because of wastewater issues. Results from the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab have been received. There have been 25 regular sample locations to cover a variety of geographic areas in the state. Additional sites were added when concerns arose over wastewater and dead animals. Sediment sampling is also being done for pesticides, volatile compounds, and many toxins. Floodwater provides dilution, and as water recedes, detections of nutrients, bacteria, and common herbicides are being found. There are isolated detections of metals and volatile compounds. There are low concentrations within the water, but there are very high loads of these chemicals moving in the water stream. In July, DNR was still finding sustained high levels of nitrate and E. coli levels. Nitrate and ammonia levels have decreased during August. Levels of bacteria continue to be high downstream of the Cedar Rapids waste water treatment plant. As the water has receded, bacteria levels increased downstream of Cedar Rapids. DNR has spoken with areas downstream to prevent recreational use of water because of high bacteria levels.

There are isolated detections of various chemicals, but there are not consistent patterns in detection, but rather isolated detections. There have been consistent detections of motor oil, metals such as zinc and lead, and acetone. DNR has been working with the EPA to put the results into context. The EPA has been working to establish short term goals. Oakville is an area of special concern. They have seen the highest levels of metals and motor oil. As the water recedes, sediments dry and contaminants are left behind. A Task Force member asked the speaker to elaborate on health outbreaks about E. coli. The speaker said that the Department of Public Health tracks those numbers, and she was unaware of widespread outbreaks of bacterial disease. The speaker said that surveillance measures are hard to link back to locations, but they have been

cautioning people to consider bacteria in clean up measures. The speaker said that the dilution of water has helped overall. A Task Force member said that he thought the message was not out to avoid recreational areas. The speaker agreed and said that DNR has been working more closely with the city of Cedar Rapids. The speaker said that dead wildlife have been found, but it is unclear whether their deaths were connected to levels of toxins in the water. A Task Force member asked about the process for reporting water quality results. The speaker said that DNR works closely with communities to communicate bacteria levels. A Task Force member asked how safe it was to live in towns that were contaminated. The speaker said that will need to be addressed and there is no current line of communication regarding the matter.

A Task Force member thanked the speaker for her information and asked if the Department was required to notify the public about E. coli levels. The speaker said there have been efforts to work through local officials and to provide data through press releases. The speaker said that beaches can be easily closed, but when it is a stream, methods to distribute information about concerns are less apparent. A Task Force member asked about detections of chromium and lead. The speaker said that there are established safety levels for drinking water, but not for sediment. Short term limits are not clear because the population is not drinking sediments. The Task Force member asked if the numbers have been vetted through the Department, and the speaker said that they have not. She said further testing will be needed. A Task Force member asked if anything has been done to contact livestock producers who are at the Cedar River bottom. The speaker answered that some of the results started to come in over the last week. There was discussion about the importance of releasing information to the public. A Task Force member asked if there is a place where people can send samples. Skopec answered that people can send samples to the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab or private labs.

Update on Soil Cover Crop Discussion – Lyle Asell, IDNR

Halling introduced Lyle Asell from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to give an update on the soil cover crop discussion. Asell talked about the recommendations at the July 30 meeting with Dr. Miller at Iowa State University regarding the need for cover crops on barren lands as a result of flooding. He recommended including promoting cover crops in flood affected areas within a quick timeframe and convening a group of people to start a program that provides incentives to land owners and producers to plant cover crops. Later this week, a program will be rolled out that will educate people about cover crops. The group is still waiting to receive funding and has taken the initiative to move forward with outreach and information efforts.

Discussion of Recommendations

Slater said that this will not be the last meeting of the Agriculture and Environment Task Force. He directed the group to discuss immediate recommendations for the report to the Commission that will be put together by September 2. Slater said that members of the Iowa General Assembly have been involved in the process, and additional resource and Task Force members have provided feedback. He said that some concerns involve long-term needs, which will be addressed in future meetings.

Slater directed the group to a list of issues that were raised in the last meeting and included levees, longer term issues, the impact of the disaster on the crop harvest, feed shortages, soil erosion and cover crops, infrastructure, hydrologic footprint and modifications, floodplain issues, watershed conservation, technical assistance, soil quality, water drainage and water quality, and environmental issues.

A Task Force member said that there needs to be a way to sort through an overwhelming volume of information to make informed recommendations. Slater asked the group to look at immediate needs. A Task Force member mentioned that there is not a set way of providing information to the

greater community. A Task Force member talked about floodplain management and said that LiDAR is a way to move forward. Slater said that a mapping system will be very beneficial in the long run. Asell said that LiDAR is the imaging technology to put together topographical information, and a major benefit is that you can do a variety of things with the technology, such as mapping floodplains. The US Geological Services (USGS) has a proposal to link LiDAR to get real time flood information.

A Task Force member suggested that the state add an emergency buy-out fund to expedite the buyout process, which can take a year or more. A Task Force member suggested that people in local areas need active information. A Task Force member suggested that the group consider what needs to be done to prepare the agricultural sector for winter and the first frost. A Task Force member spoke about the need to expedite the planning process for affected communities to prevent migration from those areas. A Task Force member mentioned that businesses should be given tax incentives to get them to stay in and come to affected areas.

A Task Force member asked whether Iowa could get a waiver related to the waste reduction plan so that the state will not be penalized for the amount of waste that will go to waste facilities. A Task Force member said that this is a state regulation that can be changed by the Legislature. A Task Force member talked about numerous properties that were in the floodplain and have bypassed cities and have gotten approval to rebuild in the floodplains. The Task Force member suggested that the rebuilding process take floodplain locations into consideration to rebuild in a stronger, safer, and smarter way. There was discussion about the need for the people of Oakville to know how and when decisions will be made.

A Task Force member mentioned the need to think about coordinating soil and water conservation efforts. There was discussion about the need for levees and infrastructure to be in place, so that crops can be planted next spring. A Task Force member disagreed about the need for levees and expressed concern that the measure would not solve flooding problems. A Task Force member suggested that the group take advantage of any grants through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Another Task Force member suggested that funding be requested as supplemental funding so that existing programs were not denied funding. Group members agreed that the cover crop issue is important and will be supported through information and outreach to farmers, even if incentives are not funded. A Task Force member suggested an immediate need of giving attention to the threat to humans due to E. coli and said it will be important to distribute information in an effective way. A Resource Group member said there is a need to expand sediment sample collection sites. A Task Force member volunteered that water and soil conservation districts will help with collecting samples.

There was discussion about the need to inform people about the issues surrounding floodplains, in order to enable people to make informed decisions. A Resource Group member came forward with a collection of ideas and comments from a group of people involved in the issues. Slater said that many comments from Resource Group members have been received and will be incorporated into the report. Asell referenced a report from DNR on damages, and Slater said that information will be incorporated into the report as well. A Task Force member suggested that tax incentives be considered to provide relief to businesses and individuals in affected communities. One Resource Group member suggested that technical assistance should be provided on how to build sustainably. It was suggested that this be incorporated as a resource offered to communities, instead of a mandate.

A Resource Group member suggested that education about levee and floodplain systems is needed to help people make long term decisions. A Task Force member said that school districts are struggling financially because of the loss of students. A Task Force member suggested that

levees may not be the ideal alternative to flood control and discussed watersheds. He emphasized the need to plan carefully in a systematic way. According to a Resource Group member, the Floodplain Task Force said that the decision to replace or not replace levees is made by owners or the Army Corps of Engineers without the state's approval. Skalak said that there is commitment that has already been made by the federal government to fix the levees. There was discussion about the need to plan for the system as a whole. It was mentioned that the Interagency Levee Task Force will be looking at levees and trying to identify viable alternatives to repairing them. A Task Force member suggested that water monitoring be carefully examined in order to ensure public safety.

There was discussion about making a recommendation to rebuild levees quickly. There was disagreement among group members about this issue, and it was decided by the group to not make a recommendation concerning levees, such the levee system is under the purview of another Task Force, and the group could not reach consensus on the recommendation.

Issues brainstormed include the following:

- Communication to citizens and Iowa
- Preparation for frost date

Recommendations brainstormed include the following:

- Using LiDAR to map floodplains
- Emergency buyout fund from local and state entities to expedite buyout process
- Active communication to local communities
- Adjustments to waive waste reduction regulations
- Rebuilding choices made to build a safer, stronger, smarter Iowa
- Coordination of water and soil conservation efforts
- Repair infrastructure that supports agriculture
- Connect with National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to maximize grants
- Funding as supplemental and not detracting from existing programs
- Outreach and information to farmers about cover crops and support of cover crop programs
- IDPH and DNR collaboration to assess and address environmental concerns
- Expand sediment testing
- Education and information about floodplain issues
- Technical assistance to localities on sustainable rebuilding
- Collection of information to inform long term issues (levees, floodplain issues)
- Access to water quality information

Slater thanked the group for their participation and said that group members would be asked to comment on the Task Force report. Additional comments submitted to the Rebuild Iowa Office staff will be incorporated into future discussions and the report body of information. Halling said that the next Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission meeting will be in Cedar Falls on August 19, and the Task Force report is due on August 21. Task Force reports will be presented to the Commission on September 2. Halling thanked the group members for attending and adjourned the meeting.